

# The Clayton News

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND THE UPBUILDING OF THE COMMUNITY.

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## CLAYTON'S FINEST SOCIAL EVENT AN "ALL NIGHTER"

Good Eats, Good Music, Entertaining Speakers and Grand Finale Keep Masons Awake.

Dull care was forgotten, in fact he was chased out of town for one whole night with the orchestra's opening strain at the Masonic banquet in the rathskeller of the Mission building Wednesday evening.

It was The Event and short story writers and movie producers haven't anything "on" this affair. Tables were snowy white, silver ware shone, slender-stemmed delicate glasses (yes, there was a moderate amount of bubble water) invited inspection, mirror shadows reflected from the floor, walls were festooned with holly wreaths and hidden behind a grove of ferns Bristol's orchestra ground out airs that would melt the heart of the world's champion groucher.

Glad Clothes and Happy Folks Wearing them.

Not alone did Jack Weichman do his part to make the affair a winner. The feminine coterie will long be remembered as the brightest, happiest, best dressed crowd that ever assembled at one function in Clayton. Most of the dresses were creations. Many of the men bloomed out in evening clothes and an air of prosperity fairly radiated from all. A menu consisting of five courses was served in style entirely in keeping with the rest of the show.

The Next Song was a Dance

Toast Master O. P. Easterwood worked orators of the evening for all they were worth. Capt. T. S. Snyder delivered an interesting talk on "Objects of the Order." Joseph Gill "What Masonry Means," Hugh B. Woodward "Fraternity," Judge J. S. Holland, "History of Clayton Lodge," H. J. Hammond Sr. "Eminent Masons," D. W. Snyder "Everyday Masonry," this in a humorous vein, Morris C. Johnson made the closing address and extended the invitation for the crowd to repair to the ball room at Palmer Hall where frivolity reigned supreme. The orchestra tooted its last toot at 4:55 a. m.

"Beauties of the Mystic Art"

J. Frank Barnhart's address was among the best of the evening. The theme was unique and Mr. Barnhart delivered it in a semi-humorous vein that proved popular with his audience. Aside from a few preliminary remarks the speech follows in full:

"Mr. Toastmaster, ladies and brothers:

"As you state, Mr. Toastmaster, that the time is short and as I see so many orators here who are anxious to get upon their hind legs and hold sweet converse with you I will endeavor to take but very little of your time.

"I dislike to start in by bragging too much about you good people of Clayton, but the fact remains that when I see so many faces of those who have helped to make this little camping place beside a mud hole on the vast prairies into the largest little town I have ever seen it is not unseemly to mention it.

"But my good friends, the work was here to do and had we failed to recognize our opportunities and take advantage of them we would have been remiss in our duty to ourselves and to posterity, for we do our work in the world or we perish from it else why cumber we the earth," and the saving grace of man is the fact that he turns his face to the dawn and reaches forth his arms in a constant effort to grasp the better things of life and so we of Clayton are making this a better place to live in but heaven knows there is yet more work to do.

"There is still plenty of chance for the knocker to knock and for the optimist to spread his beautiful wings and soar, but between these two stand those bulwarks of safety: the energetic, practical and loyal-

headed citizens who are making this little city habitable.

"Wild and Woolly and the Bullets Sang Home, Sweet Home."

"When I look back ten years it is difficult to realize that this is the same town. It was then the wildest and woolliest of the wild and woolly, it was then that the sweet hum of the roulette wheel and the gentle click of the poker chip lent music to the cadence of the foot steps of our wives and children as they passed along our main street and the ominous bark of the playful '45' sent the cold chills down our back bone and hastened our footsteps toward home and safety, and the local color at that time would have put the pens of Owen Wister, Bret Harte, O. Henry or Rex Beach in a frenzy of activity. The change in the moral atmosphere is as light to darkness but then we could not remain as we were for we are living in a great age. My friends, I believe that this is now the greatest age since the dawn of the Christian era and if we but pause to reflect we must marvel at the stupendous achievements along the lines of constructive thought and action, a great moral wave is for one thing sweeping over the United States today that will not be denied; it has sounded the knell of licensed wrong; it is manifested in better educational facilities, more practical curriculums, economic national and civil government, preventive and curative medicine, surgery, bacteriology, electric achievement, higher ideals in the home and hygienic methods of living, the lessening of poverty and crime, the passing of the ward heel, the dying out of political prejudice, broadening of religious views with less strife and contention between denominations and lest but not least, Temperance, and if it will not be too great a jolt to you I am going to tell you something: You are going to have prohibition right here in Clayton. Yes, statewide with a six wire fence around it pig tight, bull strong and bootlegger proof, and if these ladies here present had been given the ballot we would have it right now.

Now this is a trifle strong for a man who likes a little booze occasionally as well as I do, but I am glad that I can still see light through a ladder without a microscope. And now, my friends, just as we are closing the Yuletide festivities to commemorate the coming into the world of Him who was destined to have such an influence upon the lives of men, it may be fitting to speak of our order in its connection to those valuable precepts handed down to us by the lowly Nazarene.

"It was He who taught us the glorious meaning of 'Peace on Earth, good will toward men,' and admonished us to 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.' I suppose there is none of us here but who have thought the latter practically a human impossibility but I think that He meant to impress upon us the utter futility of a selfish and sordid life to the exclusion of all the better things of life, prostituting our God-given talents for unsatisfying and ignoble ends, abusing the houses in which we live and ide in middle life, unhappy, unsatisfied, achievements unsung, memory unmentioned and soon forgotten.

I could give the names of many men of prominence in the last decade of this kind, but it is unnecessary. Suffice to say that I am a believer in the theory that the world is growing better, and I believe today that there are more men of similar talent for the accumulation of wealth who let God's glorious sunshine warm their souls and occasionally pause in the fitful struggle to lend a helping hand to a brother less endowed.

Twelve Apostles Should Remain Seated.

"And such, indeed, are the teachings of Free Masonry, but all good men are not Masons and perhaps

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## COMMISSIONERS CREATE 3 NEW VOTING PRECINCTS

Folks can Vote and Get Back Home in One Day. Other Capital Notes.

Upon presentation of petitions signed by the majority of taxpayers who were interested, the Board of county commissioners, in session this week, created three new voting precincts. The new voting places will be Pasamonte, Lone Star school house and Mt. View school house. The creation of these new precincts will allow folks to make the trip to the polling place and get back home the same day.

The boundary lines of the new precincts will be described in the Commissioners' proceedings which will be published in an early issue of The News.

Some Taxes Still Unpaid

While many property owners took advantage of the law passed in 1915 for the redemption of property in the delinquent tax list without penalty and interest, said Fulgencio C. de Baca, deputy treasurer and collector, "the county is now in possession of many tax deeds that the owners must pay interest for redemption."

Mr. de Baca says the 1915 law did much to bring tax money into the county for taxes as far back as 1905.

County Agent Makes Application

An application from an agricultural expert to act as county agent for Union county came before the Board of Commissioners this session. The application was deferred until the April meeting pending investigation of the applicant's ability. The commissioners are desirous of getting views of Union county farmers in this matter and urge consultation.

Assessor Getting Wide Gauge Machines

L. D. George, whose duty it is to act as chauffeur of the typewriters in the county Assessor's office, is happy to announce that the county has traded the old machines for new model Monarchs with 32 inch carriages. This width carriage will take a full page of the tax rolls with some margin to spare and will greatly expedite the work of the office.

Marriage Market Strong

Cupid was a busy little archer during the holidays according to the records of County Clerk Juan J. Duran's office. Besides the marriages that have been otherwise chronicled by The News the following licenses were issued:

Margaret Galvin, of Sedan, and Lloyd M. Sowers of Thomas. M. E. Hardesty and Samuel David. Ruth Laster and L. Eugene Clinkenbeard.

Sheriff Returns with Prisoner

Sheriff T. J. Crumley returned this week from Maple Hill, Kansas, with John Hock, who it is alleged, obtained \$25 by cashing a check at the Eklund hotel in October without funds in the bank to liquidate it.

Three Piece Orchestra for Mission

Willard & Earle, leasees of the Mission opera house are expected to arrive in Clayton next week to begin installing equipment. It is reported that this management will furnish a three piece orchestra with the regular program.

Hodges-Nelson

Alice Hodges and Harrison Nelson were united in marriage Tuesday morning at the M. E. parsonage, Rev. Autho Gains, officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson left on the noon train the same day for a visit with friends and relatives in Missouri. They will return to Clayton to make their home. The News extends hearty congratulations.

SAM SMITH REPORTED KILLED

Sam Smith, about 55 years of age, a wealthy and well-known rancher and one of the first men to settle in Union county, according to a report brought to Kenton by a rider and telephoned to Clayton, was shot and killed by an unknown person Friday afternoon. Officer Crumley, Justice L. W. Kingdom and County Physician Dr. Bristol left immediately in an automobile for the Smith ranch via Kenton. Through absence of any wire connection between either Kenton or Clayton and the Smith ranch we are unable to learn any of the details of the supposed murder. A general air of mystery surrounds the affair as it is reported that no one saw the crime committed, yet the theory of suicide that was later reported was promptly discredited although there is no basis by which either story can be confirmed.

Officers were expected to arrive in Clayton Saturday night.

Another Jitney Line

H. H. Sammons, who has been cashier at Clayton for the C. & S. has temporarily resigned to conduct a jitney line from Clayton to Greenville, Mt. Dora and Des Moines. Mr. Sammons purchased a new Ford at Wikoff Garage and made his first trip Tuesday. This business seems to be a paying one as C. A. Merrill, who started the line from Clayton to Textline and Dalhart, has added another car to his equipment and extended the line to Texhoma and other points.

Since the C. & S. pulled off two passenger trains from Clayton's daily service folks who have wanted to travel have found it difficult to go anywhere and get back. Schedules of both auto lines are arranged to eliminate long waits for the morning and evening passengers.

Rev. Gains Arrives

Rev. and Mrs. Autho Gains and family arrived from New Hampshire Friday. Rev. Gains succeeds Rev. Dum as pastor of the M. E. church. Because Mr. Gains is from New Hampshire does not signify that he is a "down easter." He is a native of Colorado, having gone east two years ago.

Dixie Opera Chairs Coming

Manager "Slats" Rankin of the Dixie announces that 200 leather-covered opera chairs have been shipped from New York City and are expected to arrive in Clayton next week. They will be installed immediately upon arrival.

Hot Coffee Scalds Baby

Sallie Merle, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Smith was badly scalded Tuesday evening when she pulled a pan into which Mrs. Smith had poured some boiling coffee from the table. The attending physician says while the child suffered a very painful accident her condition is not considered serious.

Murphy Increases Size of Ranch

B. F. Murphy added 240 acres to Lakeside ranch this week by purchasing the J. W. Rardin farm adjoining him. B. F. is one of Union county's old settlers and has been instrumental in locating many good families in the county. Vocally and actively Mr. Murphy's a booster.

J. E. McAvoy and G. G. Wright, of the First National Bank of Textline were business visitors in Clayton Tuesday. Mr. Wright has another Oakland roadster to replace the one which was destroyed by fire a short time ago. The new one is a "regular parole."

## CONTRACTOR SAYS WORK WILL CLOSE NEXT WEEK

Clayton's Building Pulse Still Rapid: More Contracts for New Structures and Others to Come.

Ornamental figures are now taking their place on the Mission building. The bewhiskered strong men the main lobby arch depends upon for support have been put into position. Eight beautiful, snow white, but petrified women lie in state on a downy bed of excelsior waiting to be hoisted high up on the wall where they will hold up the ceiling. The man who layed the tiling in the lobbies finished his work Wednesday. The royal goat which will guard the exterior of the theatre began his duties Friday evening.

Superintendent Fowler of the Bone Construction Co., said they expected to finish their work by the latter part of next week.

Another Chip in Clayton's Stack

Clayton's building fever continues to hover around 102. Without any advance notices a crew of workmen began throwing dirt Monday morning just south of The News office on the lots formerly occupied by the Sayre barn which burned last September.

Robt. W. Isaacs' implement business has grown to such proportions that Mr. Isaacs is building a separate building for it. Paul Hunter has the contract for the erection of the building which is to be of brick 55 x 85 feet. This will be the salesroom for P. & O. implements and Eclipse and Sampson windmills.

Wikoff will Build Garage

A. L. Wikoff recently purchased from J. C. Melton for a consideration of \$3,200 the four lots which for years have been occupied by a feed yard. Mr. Wikoff intends to utilize at least three of the lots this spring when he will build a new home for the Ford Motor company. Mr. Wikoff says that the building will be brick unless he changes his present plans. With the addition of this building that corner of Main street will vie for honors with any in the city.

Weber & Sons Move

Work of moving Weber & Sons mercantile establishment to the Mission building was completed this week. This firm's new home is doubtless among the best in the state and the firm has put in a line of fixtures that are in keeping with the building. A mammoth refrigerator is one of the things they have added to their equipment.

Geo. H. Wade & Co. Furnish Rest Room

The ladies rest room at Geo. H. Wade & Co., was completed this week. Mr. Wade has furnished this room for the use of feminine shoppers and extends a cordial invitation to the ladies to make it their resting and waiting place.

Blue Prints Arrive

Blue prints for the front drop of the Mission opera house have arrived from the Kansas City Scenic Co. The blue prints show the pictorial subjects and diagrams of the advertising spaces as a replica of the Orpheum theatres in Kansas City and Denver. The space is limited to 20 advertisers.

The bungalow which Greely C. Parham is building across the track is nearing completion. When finished this residence will be one of the prettiest in Clayton. The exterior is pebble dash, which seems to be the rage in house fashions.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. McNulty of the Cimarron were in Clayton Monday. Mrs. McNulty was enroute to Sedalia, Mo., where she will visit relatives.

The News—All that the name implies.